

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to explain the reason for missing three votes on January 13, 2009. I was attending the swearing in ceremony for the 81st session of the Texas Legislature that took place yesterday in Austin, TX, where two former staff members from our office were sworn-in as newly elected State Representatives.

Carol Alvarado and Armando Walle were elected to represent Districts 145 and 140, respectively, on November 4, 2008. State Representative Alvarado worked in our office prior to working in Houston City Hall, and for the last six years as a member of the Houston City Council. Prior to being sworn in, State Representative Walle also worked in our office for over six years as Community Liaison.

Both these newly elected members of the State House have a tremendous record of service through their civic involvement, their time working for elected officials, and as elected officials. I wish them the best as they continue to serve the people of Texas in the State Legislature.

On the three votes I missed:

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 41, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month 2009;

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 50, Honoring the life of Claiborne Pell, distinguished former Senator from the State of Rhode Island; and

I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 43, Recognizing the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promoting the holiday as a day of national service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES
E. ALLEN

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the unsung heroes of the Intelligence Community. Mr. Charles E. Allen, who has ably and admirably served our Nation over the past fifty years, will soon retire from a long and legendary public service career.

Charlie began his career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) back in 1958 and climbed the ranks from analyst to liaison to program manager and beyond. He was assigned to the Department of Defense in 1982 and became a senior adviser on strategic mobilization planning for the Secretary of Defense. He returned to the CIA in 1985 to take on the responsibility of National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism and, a year later, was appointed the first Chief of Intelligence for the CIA's Counterterrorist Center.

Charlie's depth of expertise and dedicated professionalism led to the position of National Intelligence Officer for Warning, where, in July 1990, he made his mark as the guy who accurately predicted Saddam Hussein's invasion of

Kuwait in August 1990. Dismissed as a contrarian by others within the CIA, the conclusions in Charlie's "warning of war" memorandum bore out his sharply analytic judgment.

In recent years, I have had the pleasure of working with Charlie as he undertook the Herculean challenge of organizing and integrating the Department of Homeland Security's intelligence programs and coordinating these activities with the Intelligence Community writ large. When he first came to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as the Chief Intelligence Officer and the Department's then-Assistant Secretary for Informational Analysis, Charlie worked tirelessly to focus resources on counterterrorism and find a new way to move forward in the aftermath of 9/11. For all of his efforts, Charlie was rewarded with an elevation to Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, where he continued to—and will continue to—mold, shape, and guide the identity of DHS's intelligence operation. He created the foundation for all who will come after him.

On one occasion in August 2007, Charlie came down to the University of Texas El Paso's Border Security Conference to speak on the critical area of diversity in the intelligence workforce. I was really excited to hear him speak, because I understood that he is a great speaker, and he certainly always has something of substantive importance. As it turned out, though, I never got to hear his speech, because my daughter went into labor with my third grandchild. Charlie was gracious and understanding about it, since he's a grandfather himself. Every time I see him, he remembers to ask about that grandson.

I would be remiss if, outside of his exemplary resume, I didn't honor Charlie for his singular commitment to our country. Charlie has proved himself a dedicated public servant with a reputation as a workaholic, intent on giving America his best. While he has been honored time and time again for his service, receiving the CIA's highest and most coveted award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, he neither seeks recognition nor expects accolades.

Charlie is a straight-shooter. He will always give you the truth. And I will deeply miss his leadership in the Intelligence Community.

CONDEMNING RECENT VANDALISM
AND THREATS AGAINST JEWISH
INSTITUTIONS IN CHICAGO

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to draw my colleagues' attention to recent attacks on synagogues and Jewish day schools in my district and the Chicagoland area. These acts of intimidation and destruction are hate crimes, and I strongly condemn them.

On Saturday, January 10th, vandals shattered windows, broke down doors, and scrawled slogans including "Death to Israel" on Jewish synagogues and schools in the Chicago area, including Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation, Lubavitch Mesivta, Young Israel Synagogue of West Rogers Park, Congregation Anshe Motele, and Hanna Sacks Girls High School.

These recent attacks came just over a week after a Molotov cocktail was thrown at Temple

Sholom in Chicago, Illinois; and a bomb threat naming several area Jewish schools was mailed to the Ida Crown Jewish Academy. Local police are working with the FBI to determine if these attacks are linked.

Regardless of anyone's political views, attacks against religious groups, threats to schoolchildren, and the desecration of places of worship are contrary to the principles of religious tolerance upon which our country was founded and are serious crimes.

Similar crimes have been reported in other cities and communities across the country. In Knoxville, Tennessee, vandals threw rocks at two synagogues, smashing four stained glass windows. Signs supporting Hamas and comparing Israeli actions in Gaza to the Holocaust were reportedly posted at two synagogues in Irvine, California.

As a proud member of Chicago's Jewish community, I know that we are strong, vibrant, and resilient. The day after the vandalism, synagogue members put tarps over windows and returned to classes and other activities, while several hundred people gathered to denounce the attacks. Both the American Jewish Committee and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee have condemned the vandalism, and local and national groups, including the Jewish Federation of Chicago and the Anti-Defamation League, are working tirelessly in support of our community. I am proud that people of all religions in my district have come together to decry these hate crimes, just as they have come together in the past to condemn attacks on people of other religions.

Madam Speaker, what we have seen in Chicago in recent days goes beyond politically-motivated demonstrations. The intimidation and terrorization of the Jewish community is a hate crime, perpetrated against these institutions because of their religious identity. I hope that these prove isolated incidents and not a pattern of violence. I have every confidence that the police and FBI, working with the local community, will find and prosecute those responsible for these crimes.

HONORING MICHAEL MUSSER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Michael Musser. Mr. Musser passed away on November 3, 2008.

Michael Musser was born and raised in Fresno, California. He graduated from Fresno High School in 1968. Just four years later he was married to Anna. They lived a happy life together. They have two children; Jason and Julie. His children and five grandchildren still live in the Fresno area. Mr. Musser was an avid golfer. However, if there was a family event, his family would always come first.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Musser. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.